

REMARKS

At the time the current Official Action was mailed, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-15, 17-21, 23 and 25-29. The Examiner objected to claims 3, 7, 10, 14, 16, 22, 24 and 30. By the present response, independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 23 have been amended. Claims 7, 14, 22 and 30 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks set forth below is respectfully requested.

Applicants thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability of dependent claims 3, 7, 10, 14, 16, 22, 24 and 30. In view of the allowable subject matter, Applicant has chosen to place the application in condition for allowance. However, it should be noted that Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter previously recited in claim 7. Claim 7 has been canceled. Claim 8 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter previously recited in claim 14. Claim 14 has been canceled. Claim 15 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter previously recited in claim 22. Claim 22 has been canceled. Claim 23 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter previously recited in claim 30. Claim 30 has been canceled.

Based on the current amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-21 and 23-29 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

Conclusion

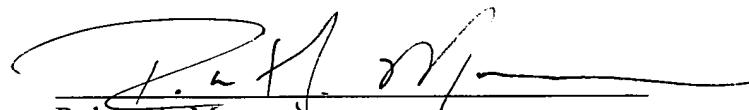
In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

General Authorization for Extensions of Time

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicant hereby provides a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Furthermore, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee for any extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-3092; Order No. MICS:0110 (02-1455).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 27, 2005



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